

The *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium* (www.smarterbalanced.org) is seeking educators to participate in item and task review activities. This invitation describes the opportunity and preregistration process for participation.

The *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium* is developing a system of valid, reliable, and fair next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts/literacy (ELA/literacy) and mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 11. The system will use computer-adaptive testing technologies to the greatest extent possible to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data, which teachers and other educators can use to help students succeed.

Smarter Balanced assessments will go beyond selected-response questions to include constructed-response and technology-enhanced items as well as performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Performance tasks challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to complex real-world problems. They can best be described as collections of questions and activities that are coherently connected to a single theme or scenario. These activities are meant to measure capacities such as depth of understanding, writing and research skills, and complex analysis, which cannot be adequately assessed with traditional assessment items.

Measured Progress (contractor for SMARTER Balanced) and the Montana Office of Public Instruction invite qualified educators from Smarter Balanced Governing States to participate in the process of reviewing items and performance tasks for this assessment system. A total of 10,000 items and performance tasks are being developed for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics for the pilot test administration (to occur in early 2013). These items and tasks will be reviewed for content, bias/sensitivity and accessibility. We are inviting qualified educators to participate in this item review process.

Below is a general description of the role and qualifications for each review.

1. Content Review Role: Evaluate whether the items and tasks align with grade-level expectations, measure identified assessment targets, align with the specified levels of cognitive complexity, are clearly worded, have appropriate scoring information, and are of appropriate grade-level difficulty.

Qualifications:

- Content expertise in English Language Arts (ELA) or mathematics
 - Currently certified or licensed K-12 public school educators in a Smarter Balanced governing state, or
 - Currently a higher education faculty member, or
 - Retired K-12 public school educators and other individuals who can provide evidence of ELA or mathematics expertise.

2. Bias/Sensitivity Review Role:

Bias and sensitivity reviewers will examine items and performance tasks for potential sources of bias, sensitive issues, and stereotypes.

Qualifications:

- Expertise in identifying potential sources of bias/ sensitivity issues, and stereotypes related to one or more of the following: ethnicity, religion, culture, socio-economic status, geographic region, and/or gender
- Must have at a minimum, a Bachelor's degree

3. Accessibility Review Role:

Accessibility reviewers will examine items and performance tasks for potential access barriers for students with disabilities and English language learners.

Qualifications:

- Expertise in identifying access barriers for one or more of the following: students who have physical disabilities, visual impairments, are deaf or hard of hearing, or who are English language learners
- Have expertise in Universal Design

In addition, all educators who are interested in serving as an item or performance task reviewer must submit a statement of interest that is at least one paragraph in length and describes (a) the reason(s) for their interest in reviewing items and/or performance tasks for the Smarter Balanced assessment system and (b) their qualifications for doing so.

Scope of Work: Selected reviewers will complete a set of 6-8 training modules. Each training module will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. Some additional training may be required during the synchronous review of items. Item review training will take place in late August or early September, 2012.

After successful completion of training, reviewers will be assigned items and/or performance tasks to review. Reviewers will indicate whether each item or performance task is acceptable and, when it is not, provide a written explanation as to why it may be problematic. The reviews will take place during September and October 2012. Compensation will be provided for the successful completion of training modules and item review activities for time spent outside of normal educator working hours.

How will participants benefit?

Participants must have expertise and a deep understanding of the CCSS to be eligible for item review. They will receive training in the Smarter Balanced Content Specifications and item specifications.

Benefits will include

Intensive training on Content and Item/Task Specifications
Practical training in reviewing assessment items
Opportunity to support the Consortium activities
Certificate of participation for local district

Technical Requirements

Participants must have a secure work location where their work will not be observed by others. In addition, participants will need to have the following:

Email address (organizational or personal). This should be an email address that you will be checking regularly.

Internet connection to support online meetings such as WebEx (www.webex.com), including local technical support with firewalls or other issues if required.

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- Internet connection to support online meetings such as WebEx (www.webex.com), including local technical support with firewalls or other issues if required.
- Telephone connection to support conference calls to a toll-free number.
- Computer capability to support free Mozilla Firefox browser software (www.mozilla.org).
- Computer capability to support free Adobe Reader software (www.adobe.com).

[Online Preregistration Link](#)

Preregistration Deadline: Thursday June 21, 2012